

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

MC-02 ACDA-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /066 W

----- 076013

R 270936Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8987

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, PK, US, IN

SUBJECT: PAKISTANI PRESS REACTION TO THE LIFTING OF THE ARMS  
EMBARGO

1. THE LIFTING OF THE US ARMS EMBARGO TO SOUTH ASIA IS, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, RECEIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE, ALTHOUGH NEWS HAS HAD TO COMPETE WITH THAT OF OTHER IMPORTANT DOMESTIC AND EXTERNAL EVENTS. PRESS REACTION HAS BEEN GENERALLY ONE OF RESTRAINED GRATIFICATION WITH WHAT IT VIEWS AS LONG OVERDUE MEASURE. THE FOLLOWING THEMES ARE PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY:

2. PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S SUCCESS: THE PRIME MINISTER IS PERSONALLY CREDITED FOR HAVING PERSUADED US THAT LIFTING THE EMBARGO WILL NOT DISTURB THE BALANCE OF POWER AND THUS WITH ACHIEVEMENT OF A NATIONAL OBJECTIVE.

3. U.S. POLICY: THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO IS REPRESENTED

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AS ENDING AN ANOMALY WHICH SAW A POLICY THAT WAS INTENDED

TO BE EVENHANDED BUT IN FACT DEPRIVED ONLY PAKISTAN OF ARMS. AT LEAST ONE PAPER (NAWAIWAQT) NOTED THAT THE U.S. GAINED NOTHING THROUGH THIS DENIAL TO OUR ALLY, PAKISTAN, BUT IN FACT HELPED TO LEAD TO HER DISMEMBERMENT BY THAT DENIAL. U.S. IS PORTRAYED AS HAVING AN INTEREST IN A STRONG PAKISTAN. BECAUSE MRS. GHANDI'S WARNING AGAINST RESUMPTION OF ARMS WAS NOT HEEDDED, THE PRESS SEES INDO/U.S. RELATIONS HAVE SUFFERED A SETBACK. UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S CAUTION THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO HELP PAKISTAN ACHIEVE EQUAL FOOTING WITH INDIA HAS BEEN WELL PUBLICIZED.

4. INDO-PAK RELATIONS: INDIAN ASSERTIONS OF HEGEMONY IN SOUTH ASIA, EVIDENCED BY THE TAKEOVER IN SIKKIM, CAN ONLY BE CHECKED BY A STRONG PAKISTAN, ACCOUNTS RUN. THESE ASSERTIONS, BASED ON AN INDIAN MILITARY MADE STRONG BY RUSSIAN AND INDIGENOUS ARMS PLUS ATOMIC CAPABILITIES, WERE AT BACK OF INDIAN OPPOSITION TO CHANGE

IN U.S. POLICY. IMBALANCE IN RELATIVE STRENGTH OF THE TWO COUNTRIES HAS LED TO WARS IN PAST AND WAS BASIC INDUCEMENT TO 1971 WAR. PRESS FAVORABLY QUOTES PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT PAKISTAN DOES NOT WANT TO ENTER AN ARMS RACE WITH INDIA, AND REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE SIMLA PROCESS.

5. WEAPONS NEEDED: ONLY H.K. BURKI (PAKISTAN TIMES, FEBRUARY 26) HAS EXAMINED QUESTION OF WHAT WEAPONS PAKISTAN REQUIRES: NOT USED F-5S FROM IRAN BUT WEAPONS THAT WILL MEET DEFENSE NEEDS FOR A "GOOD TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE", A "GOOD MULTI-PURPOSE PLANE TO COUNTER THE MIG 21 AND 23, PLUS ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES."

6. MONEY FOR WEAPONS: BURKI POINTS OUT THAT MONEY FOR ARMS IS LIMITED, "THE CHIEF STUMBLING BLOCK IS HARD CASH" WHICH THE PAKS MIGHT GET FROM "PETRO DOLLARS". EDITORIALS IN THE URDU PRESS HOPE THAT "FRIENDS" MIGHT PROVIDE IT BUT THAT WE MUST "SEE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUCWHAT THESE FRIENDS WILL DO". BURKI (PAKISTAN TIMES, FEBRUARY 23) WARNS THAT IF "MUSLIM WORLD'S PETRO DOLLARS" NOT FORTHCOMING, THEN "WHEN THE NEXT TIME OF TROUBLE COMES TO THE MIDDLE EAST, PAKISTAN MAY HAVE LITTLE TO OFFER BY WAY OF MILITARY OR EVEN POLITICAL SUPPORT".  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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